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An
Inaugural Dissertation

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For the Degree of
Doctor of Medicine

By

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On Gastritis.

Among the diversified forms of disease to which mankind is subject, there is none perhaps, which requires in its treatment, more promptitude and skill, than Gastritis: inflammation, seated in organs less essential to life, may run its course, & terminate favourably, without the assistance of art, but, being here, located, (as it were) at the root of the tree of life, its rapid career is only to be checked, by immediate recourse to the most active remedies. but however vigorously, and promptly its progress may be opposed, the Physician will often be compelled to mourn at the impotence of his art, when contending with this most formidable disease. Gastritis has been divided, by Cullen into two species. Phlegmonous, & Erythematous

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According to the Coats, in which the disease
may be seated, this division however, is of
no practical utility. It has been more properly
divided by Professor Chapman, into Idiopathic
& Symptomatic.

The Causes of this disease, are naturally
divided into those, which act primarily on
the Stomach, & those which act through
the medium of the general system—
Among the first, are, poisonous, or acrid
substances taken into the Stomach, large
draughts of any cold liquid, when the body
is much heated, the abuse of ardent spirits,
and distending the organ by large quantities
of food, of difficult digestion. It may
likewise be occasioned by external violence,
as falls, blows &c.

Among the Causes which act through the
medium of the system, may be reckoned

misplaced goul, a puffed earanthermate,
and inflammation extending from
neighbouring parts to the stomach - the
long continued application of Cold, to the
inferior extremities, is also, an occasional
cause of the disease.

The symptoms of Gastritis,
are, peculiar, and well defined. It com-
mences, with an indistinguishable sensation
of uneasiness in the region of the stomach,
attended by constant nausea, & occasional
vomiting, with a peculiar gnawing pain,
great anxiety, restlessness, & despondency,
slight sensations of chilliness, succeeded
by flushings of heat, & partial sweats. The
pulse, that unerring guide, in most other dis-
eases, gives here, but little evidence, of the mis-
chief going on within, it is frequent, small,
& somewhat compressible. As the disease

advanced, a new train of symptoms develop
themselves. The pain becomes acute, and
lancinating, the vomiting unceasing,
spasms of the stomach occur, the pulse,
hard, chorded, & diminutive, & the vital
energies completely prostrated, the abdomen
is now considerably distended, & the epigastrium
scarcely sensible to the touch. These symp-
toms being allowed to proceed, and soon
followed by others of a different nature
there is considerable diminution of pain,
the pulse becomes more feeble, & intermitting,
the extremities cold, cold clammy sweats
break out, hiccup, & vomiting of a dark
coloured matter succeed, & death soon closes
the appalling scene. The symptoms
above, are those commonly to be met with
in Gastritis, but there are others, of an anom-
alous nature, which sometimes occur. The

for Chapman. While reciting on this subject, mentioned cases, which had occurred within his own knowledge, in which the only symptom, was pain & inflammation in the throat; others in which the pain was in the arachnoid. He has likewise observed all the symptoms of Hydrophobia, to be present in his disease & again in other cases, paralysis of the superior extremities. Our surprise at these very curious, & interesting facts, will, however, in a great measure cease, when we reflect on the various, & multiplied sympathies, existing between this organ, & every other part of the system.

Most satisfactorily are the pathology of Rabies, accord with the symptoms which have been enumerated above. In the commencement of the disease, the morbid impression being made upon the mucous

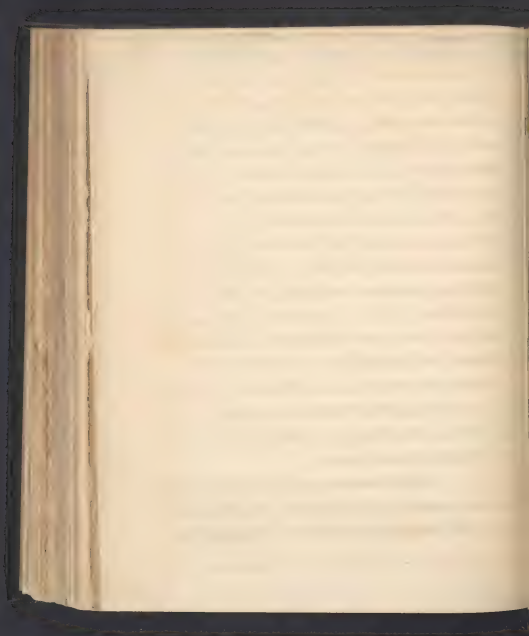


of the Stomach, we see displayed, the evidences
of Mucus inflammation, the frequent &
somewhat oppressed, but not hard or chorded,
pulse, the nausea, the gastric, & local, & the
pain rather of an indigestible, & floating,
than of an acute lancinating nature, and
featant, which by the practical Physicians,
cannot easily be mistaken. Intimately con-
nected by vascular attachment, the Muscu-
lar & Serous tips become speedily involved,
and we progressively behold, the alarming
phenoms. indicative of irritation of the
former structure, and the acute lancina-
ting pain, with the chorded, quick, pulse,
so characteristic of inflammation of
the latter membrane.

Post Mortem examinations present
all the various phenomena of inflamma-
tion, the Mucus membrane, is sometimes



found very red, with spots of extravasated blood; or a coat of coagulated lymph thrown out on its surface, in other occasions, inflammation is indicated by small streaks, presenting a radiated or stellated appearance; or we see erosions, ulcerations, thickening of the coats, and even gangrene, with now & then, schirrhous of the pylorus - Very often the blush of inflammation is altogether absent, the blood, receding from the capillaries at the moment that death occurs, and structural derangement alone, denotes the ravages of the disease. It is of no small importance to distinguish accurately the evidences of genuine Gastritis, from the appearances, which are exhibited upon dissection, in the case of criminals, or any persons who have suffered a sudden and violent death. To this subject, much atten-



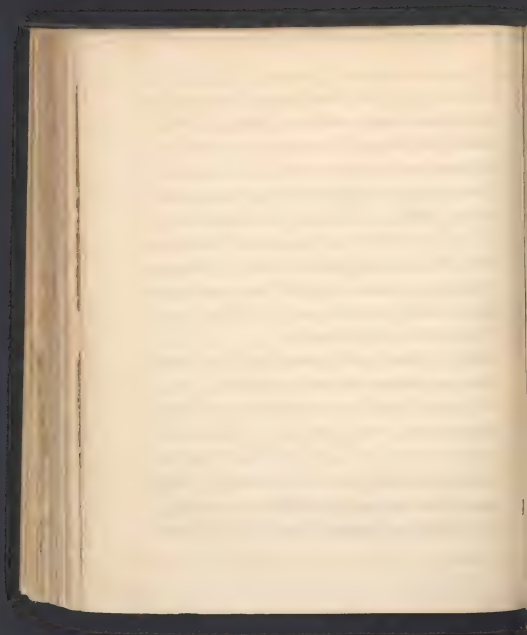
tion had of cold, been decided, and the ding-
nosties, are accurately laid down. In the
latter instances, there are none of the marks
of continued inflammation to be perceived,
there is much congestion, & enlargement in the
veins of the organs and simply, bears
in mind, that the blush of inflammation,
does not, invariably, prove that this derange-
ment has occurred, a little discrimination
will enable us to decide positively, upon
the nature of the case. --

The prognosis, in this disease, is, for the most
part, unfavourable, when it has been allowed
to proceed, without making use of the proper
remedies, in its early stage, or, when those
remedies have not had the desired effect --
When the pulse becomes intermitting, febrile,
quick, & almost imperceptible, attended by
Cold clammy sweats vomiting of a dark

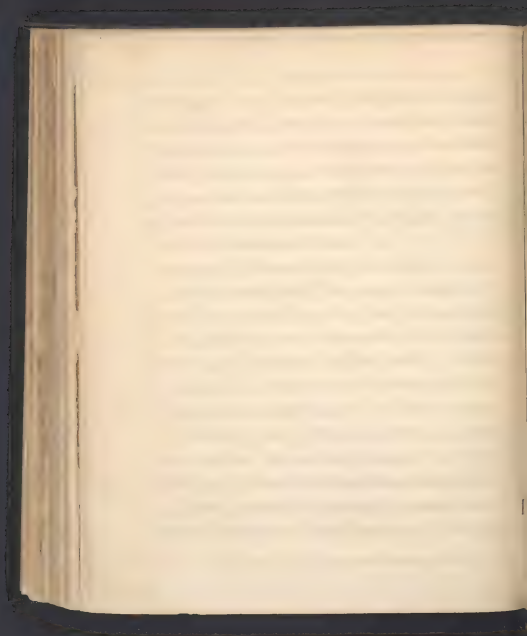


matter, hiccup, & slow delirium, we may be well
 assured that death is at hand. It is favourable
 when we are enabled to calm the irritability of
 the organ, the debility not being great, the pulse
 is coming fuller. & softer, the pain & sough pro-
 gressively abating, & the heat of the body natural.

In the treatment of this
 disease, three are the principal indications.
 1st to keep the first, to combat in-
 flammation. the 2nd. to calm the irrita-
 bility of the stomach. To fulfill the
 3rd of these, the lancet, is the only hope
 of the practitioner. it is at this important
 moment, that he must take into view, the
 vast importance of the organ affected, &
 the great tendency which the disease has
 to proceed with rapid strides, to a fatal
 termination if from the nature of the
 symptoms, or a mistaken view of the case, he



is stated to employ the remedy, is sufficient
 extent, he will, in a very short time, be con-
 vinced, that no effort of his, however well
 made, will be sufficient, to atone for his
 fatal error. Being called in the early
 stage, we should, immediately, (without
 regard to the apparent, stability, or the state
 of the pulse, which, as I have said, is here not
 to be depended on; abstract twenty or thirty
 ounces of blood, in a short space of time,
 we will find the pulse becoming more full,
 strong, & the symptoms of ordinary inflam-
 mation more fully developed. As soon as
 this takes place, the bleeding, to the same,
 or even greater amount, should be repeated,
 and this practice continued, as long as
 the symptoms demand it, without regard
 to the quantity already drawn; but be govern-
 ed alone, by the effects, produced on the



system. While steadily pursuing the means
above mentioned, we are not to lose sight of
the advantages to be gained, by the local absorp-
tion of blood. To answer this purpose, twenty
or thirty leeches, should be applied to the
epigastrium, and suffered to remain, until
they become filled, & drop off. They are here
infinitely preferable to the application of
cupps, as they produce much less pain & in-
convenience to the patient. The bowels
should now be thoroughly evacuated, by means
of injections, these should consist of articles
of a mild nature, be frequently repeated,
& in considerable quantities. Having
in these means subdued, the violence of the
disease, a blister large enough to cover the
whole region of the stomach, should be had
recourse to; it is a mistaken idea, to apply
small blisters in these cases; large ones



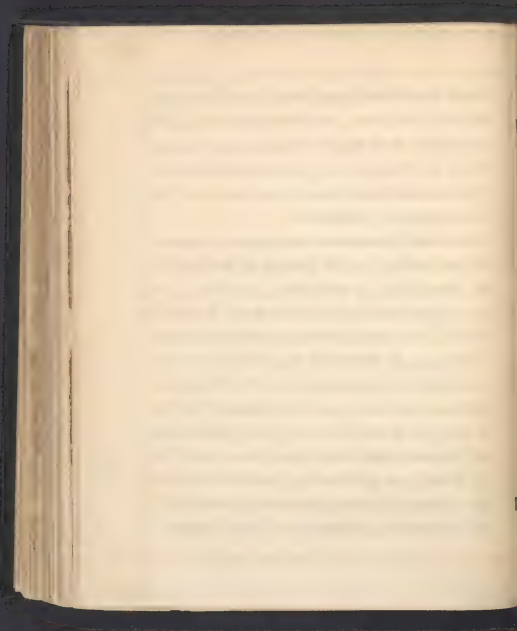
will draw little more, pain, & the advantage derived from them, much more decisive, even admitting that they are more painful, our object is, to remove a formidable disease. No hesitation should be experienced in the employment of them -

Our next endeavour should be, to calm the irritability of the stomach, which is to be attempted, by the administration of very small quantities of some Water & mucilage, if this fails. Minute doses of the acetate of Lead may be tried. Calomel in very small quantities has succeeded in these Cases, when other articles have failed - Should we not be able to attain our object by these means, the Warm bath, is a most powerful remedy, & should be had immediate recourse to - it will frequently produce a pleasant flow on the Skin, & all its healthy action,



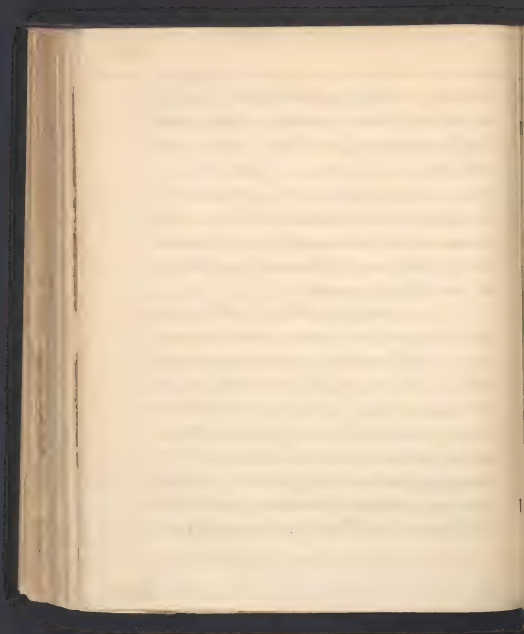
calm the irritability of the Stomach, & compose
 the patient to sleep. — Unobtainable, unless
 he fauces rationally, serviceable, at this stage
 of the disease, if we cannot by the means
 already mentioned, succeed in allaying the
 irritability of the organs, they should not, however
 be administered in the early stage of the disease,
 as they would doubtless tend to aggravate all
 the disturbing symptoms.

Having, by the use of the remedies,
 already mentioned, accomplished, our inten-
 tion, we should next give some purgative,
 to cleanse thoroughly, the alimentary Canal,
 the best article for this purpose, is Calomel,
 which from the smallness of its bulk, is
 not so apt to offend the Stomach, & will
 commonly act with sufficient promptitude
 & energy. Should it however, fail to do so,
 it should be followed by small & frequently

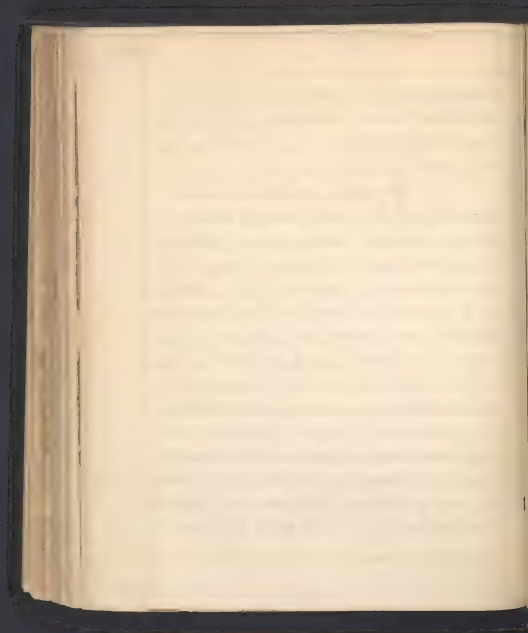


ulated doses, of a solution of Epsom salts.
This latter article, notwithstanding its nauseous
taste, will frequently remain on the stomach,
when other medicines are rejected.

By following the practice above
described, we will most generally succeed in
effecting a cure in ordinary cases of Gastritis;
but in those cases of the disease, brought on by
fevers, it is obvious that the first indication,
is, to evacuate the stomach, & afterwards, to
heat the case, on the principles already men-
tioned: modified however, by the particular cause
which may have produced the mischief—
If, notwithstanding all our efforts to the con-
trary, symptoms of gangrene supervene, we
must then resort to opium, in large doses, the
spirit of Sulphuric, has also been highly recom-
mended by Professor Chapman in this state
of the disease— The diet, to be recom-



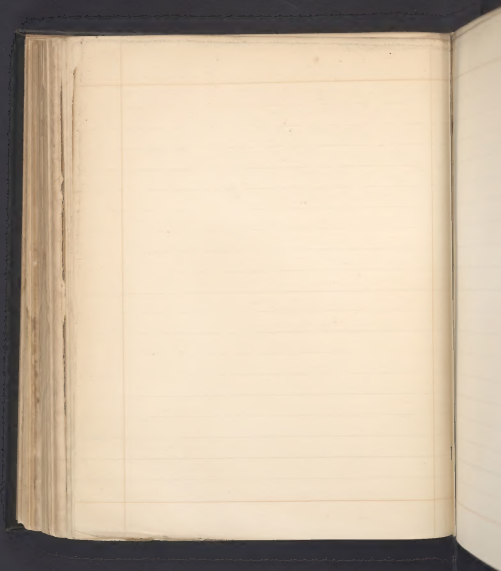
needed, for a patient recovering from an
attack of this disease, should be of the mildest
& least stimulating nature, & should be taken
in small quantities at a time. The Drink,
should be pure water, rose water, or very weak
lemonade, moderately warmed, &c.

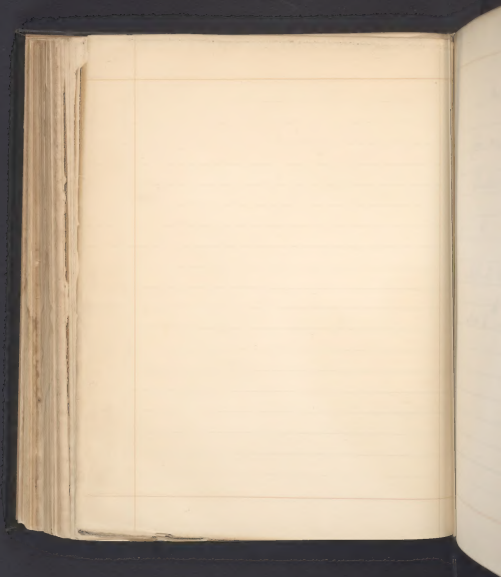












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